

developed in part by scientists Hans-Jorg Jacobsen, Georg Dohmen and others in Bonn.

William Liller, EIF

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ Concerne "The Area of Rapa Nui" de L. Henry, *RNJ* 8(3):

Messieurs, Je ne puis m'empêcher de vous adresser cette lettre, car ma surprise a été extrêmement grande quand j'ai pris connaissance de votre article sur la cartographie de l'île de Paques.

Je n'ai pas trouvé dans votre liste d'auteurs le nom de Antoni Pujador ni le mien. C'est d'autant plus bizarre que ma carte et celle de Tony Pujador sont considérées actuellement comme les meilleures sur le marché. Je vous signale que la mienne qui date de 1/1/1979 No.17336, a été élaborée avec les documents photogrammétrique de la force aérienne chilienne, les différentes tribus avec le travail d'Alfred Metraux, la situation des ahus avec le travail de Thomson, Routledge, Lavachery et Englert, les courbes de niveau avec les données topographiques chiliennes, et le travail cartographique de Peterson en 1966, travail réalisé pour l'UNESCO.

J'ai personnellement calculé la surface exacte de l'île avec le procédé de la grille millimétrique c'est à dire avec une extrême précision c'est ainsi que j'ai pu déterminer que l'île avait une surface de 165,059 km². De plus, vous pouvez trouver sur ma carte, tout un tas de renseignements pratiques. Je suis donc très étonné que vous ne la connaissiez pas.

Quant à la carte de mon ami Tony Pujador elle est sortie d'imprimerie le 30/10/85 elle est en couleur, est vendue dans le monde entier, échelle 1/30000 je l'ai pratiquement, entièrement vérifiée, sauf la surface. Cette carte avec couverture brune a été dédicacée par Thor Heyerdahl. Je ne puis comprendre, que vous ne la connaissez pas, elle est vendue a tout le monde à Ile de Pâques.

Sans vouloir vous vexer, je pense que vous n'avez pas pris la peine de vérifier ce que les autres pays que les Etats Unis et le Chile faisaient a ce sujet, vous n'avez consulté que les travaux de langues anglaises. Je voudrais terminer en vous disant que si j'ai crée cette carte en 1979 c'est parce que j'estimais que toutes les cartes étaient mauvaises, et que il fallait que j'en fasse une excellente en tant que spécialiste européen de l'Ile de Paques, maintenant depuis 30 ans. Dois je vous dire que j'en ai également fait des autres en 1975 pour le livre de Albert van Hoorebeeck la vérité sur l'Ile de Paques aux éditions Pierrette d'Antoine le Havre, France.

Je vous fait parvenir par la voie du *Rapa Nui Journal* un exemplaire de ma carte j'espère qu'elle vous sera utile. Salutations amicales,

Francois Dederen, Belgium.

✉ Dear Editor,

In your last issue, Dr. Bahn's review of Jo Anne Van Tilburg's book, while amusing and painstaking, has by no means picked up all of the errors it contains. A letter in the

latest issue of *Archaeology* (Vol.48 [3] May/June 1995, page 10), from a certain Morris Weiss, M.D., points out that in her recent article in that magazine concerning *moai* transportation Van Tilburg claims that a human's daily requirement of iron is 15 grams. Dr. Weiss writes: "This should be 15 milligrams. If 15 grams of iron per day were ingested, the poor Easter Islander's joints would have been too rusty to haul their monuments across the isle". On checking her book I found that, sure enough, she makes the same mistake in there, too (on page 159). This seems to confirm Bahn's assessment of the book

Fred Green, Minnesota

✉ Dear Editor,

In reference to the review of Van Tilburg's book (*RNJ* 9:1), if anything comes of this, reviewer Paul Bahn should be listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as having reported the largest number of errors and faults in a single publication.

Robert Koll, Mexico

Dr. Bahn is famous for his sharp eye and, occasionally, sharper tongue.

✉ Dear Editor:

As always, the article by Grant McCall in the March 1995 issue was well-researched, fascinating, and highly informative. It makes one wonder: Can you imagine what Rapa Nui would be like today had Chile sold it in 1937 to the Japanese, or to the United States, or to France? Would Easter Island have become, in World War II, another Iwo Jima? Or in 1995 another Hawaiian-style paradise with high-rise condos and golf courses? And what if it had become a part of French Polynesia? Would the Islanders be happier than they are now?

I should like to make a couple of additional points. First, I asked a lawyer-friend in Santiago to check for me, and she reports that the Government of Chile no longer owns any part of LAN, the *Linea Aerea Nacional*. LAN is now 100 per cent privately owned; the Chilean government sold their last 20% interest some time last year. Travelers to Chile may have noticed a cargo plane labeled FASTAIR at the international airport; that is the name of the company with the largest interest in LAN. Whether they have more than 50% interest was not revealed. National? In name only, like the Number 3 Chilean airline, "National Airlines" and the most-watched television channel, *TV Nacional*.

The other point that should be made is that compared with your typical rural Chilean pueblo of a few thousand people, Hangaroa and Rapa Nui are extremely well off. In a village beyond the sprawling exurbs of Santiago, paved roads are rare, water is *mas o menos* potable, electricity usually arrives in the humble *casitas* on a wire and a prayer, and often one telephone serves the entire community.

However, compared with a typical Chilean resort town like Reñaca (pop. 7000) where I live, it is an entirely different matter. We have a large, modern clinic, at least three pharmacies, several banks with money machines where I can

even withdraw cash from my bank account in the USA, cable TV (41 channels!), and an American-style supermarket with a reliable supply of flour, fresh fruit, meat and vegetables, cooking oil and, of course, excellent wine and that special Chilean brandy called *pisco*. And yes, there is an international airport just ten minutes from our home in neighboring Concon. But we do have to pay an 18% 'value-added tax' (IVA), and we do have to pay a hefty duty on items (even technical books!) imported from abroad.

Finally, I should report that last year I asked Governor Jacobo Hey what he believed to be the Island's biggest problem, and without hesitation he answered "Unemployment of the young people". And we discussed the related problem, the mediocre education provided Rapanui children. The mediocrity results mainly from the pittance of funds received from the government. (Governor Hey, it should be noted, holds a law degree from the University of Chile).

Maybe there is a happy note to end on: President Frei recently announced a whopping increase in cigarette and gasoline taxes with the income, we are told, to be put into improving education (and increasing old-age pensions). Let's hope that the Island will receive more than a trickle-down of these funds.

William Liller, *Reñaca, Chile*

REVIEWS

✱ *Easter Island*, Map #308. Published by ITMB Publishing and World Wide Books and Maps. ISBN 0 921463 30 8. First Edition 1993-1995. \$6.95. Cartography by David Sami, Suzanne Bald and Chandra Ali.

Review by Georgia Lee

A new map of Easter Island has been published and, being an *aficionado* of maps of my favorite island, I rushed to order it. What a disappointment. This latest effort relies heavily on a map published in Spain and Chile in 1985, under the direction of the late *rapanuiophile*, Antony Pujador. However, in relying on the earlier map, they simply repeated errors and then added some zingers of their own: by trying to translate everything, we see on the map such placenames as "Iti Island" and "Nui Island" for the *motus*. Petroglyphs are indicated for Motu Iti but not Motu Nui. Even the well-known petroglyph site at Orongo is off in left field, far from its actual location. Akahanga is described as having four *moai*! The inscrutable notation from the earlier map "Strong Magnetic Disturbances Here", placed on the side of Terevaka, is repeated. Anyone who ever held a compass on ANY part of Rapa Nui knows that 'magnetic disturbances' are everywhere on the island.

This map is not worth an indepth critique but I must add one more complaint. Floating around the map are little 'blurbs' telling various things about island life and history. Here we learn that Heyerdahl stopped off on Rapa Nui on his raft voyage to Polynesia (!) and the kneeling statue at Rano Raraku is described as looking like "a Nubian or Yemeni in meditation." Please.

CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal) and the World Monuments Fund published a map in 1992. It costs more than this most recent effort but is worth it: (for one thing, the paper is coated so that it won't disintegrate in the rain). It is handsome enough to hang on a wall, with well-done illustrations. It is printed in both English and Spanish. In February of this year the map was for sale at the CONAF office on the island.

📖 Catherine et Michel Orliac. *Bois Sculptés de L'île de Pâques*. Collection Arts Témoins. Editions Paréntheses/ Editions Louise Leiris. 1995. 72, cours Julien, 13006 Marseille, France. In French. Soft cover, 92 pages. Size 6½ x 9½. Maps, drawings, and 59 color photos. ISSN 11240-098X; ISBN 2-86364-505-6.

Review by Joan T. Seaver Kurze

Excellent photographic reproductions and a well-documented text make this work a fine introduction to early wooden sculptures of Easter Island/Rapa Nui. By illustrating the symbolic importance of carving to Polynesians, the Orliacs have produced a book that helps shake a 'second-best status' usually awarded to Rapa Nui wooden sculptures in comparison to the island's renowned stone behemoths.

Titles in bold type divided the book's text and neatly introduce each section. For example, we move quickly from Jacob Roggeveen's entrance on Easter Sunday, 1722, through exploratory visits by González (1770), Cook (1774), Pérouse (1786) and Dupetit-Thouars (1838) to the appearance of Brother Eugène Eyraud in 1864 and the arrival of the missionaries Père Hyppolyte Roussel, Père Gaspard Zumborn and Brother Théodule Escolan in 1886. Thus the first 144 years of Rapa Nui contact with Europeans is condensed into two pages entitled "Sailors, Pirates and Missionaries to Ile de Paques."

In the next section, "Lost Island in the Large Ocean", the authors choose the Gambier archipelago instead of the Marquesan Islands as the closest Polynesian connection to tiny Rapa Nui. This, of course, supports a fellow French researcher, Alfred Métraux, who earlier claimed that Polynesian colonists were likely to have sailed from Mangareva or Mangaia to Rapa Nui. Once again we find the island's size disputed: 166 square km according to the Orliacs, 171 square km according to Paul Bahn's figures in a recent *Rapa Nui Journal* book review.

Because a forest of large trees greeted the first Rapa Nui arrivals, such industries as architecture (wooden houses) and monumental statuary (moving the stone torsos from quarry to *ahu*) developed on the island. John Flenley's pollen analysis from the island's volcanic craters supports the Orliac's claim that *Sophora toromiro* was the only indigenous tree left to the islanders, so that eventually, Rapa Nui carvers 'lusted' after it.

In 1934, Métraux recorded that islanders translated *toromiro* as 'wood of blood' due to the color of the aged wood.